

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 16-40 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1-13 and 16-40 are rejected. Claims 9-10 and 31-32 are canceled. Claims 1-8, 12-13, 16, 19, 22-24, 26-30 and 33-40 are amended. Claims 1-8, 11-13, 16-30, and 33-40 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 9, 10, 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicant has canceled claims 9-10 and 31-32. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections are moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections for claims 9, 10, 31 and 32 are respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1-13 and 16-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections for claims 1-13 and 16-40 are respectfully requested.

III. Claims Not Rejected Over Prior Art

Applicant notes that claims 1-13 and 16-40 are amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraph rejections and are not rejected over prior art.

Applicant presumes the arguments and amendments presented in the response mailed July 24,2003 overcame the prior art rejections as the Office Action made no specific mention.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-8, 11-13, 16-30, and 33-40, as it now stands, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 1-8, 11-13, 16-30, and 33-40, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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By


Steven Laut, Reg. No. 47,736

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 21, 2004.


Jean Svoboda